

Written Testimony Submitted by:
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In opposition of
House Bill 5376 *AN ACT PROHIBITING PHYSICIANS FROM OWNING BUSINESSES THAT PROVIDE
PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES*
Presented to the Public Health Committee
February 20, 2013

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Johnson and members of the Public Health Committee,
I am writing to you to state my opposition to *House Bill 5376, An Act Prohibiting Physicians from
Owning Businesses That Provide Physical Therapy Services*.

My name is William Lee Day and I have been a physical therapist for twenty-eight years. During this time I have practiced in the hospital setting, corporate setting, for physician owned practices, and currently I am a private practitioner. In my experience, physician owned practices provide an environment that enhances continuity as well as quality of care, fosters professional discourse between therapists and referring doctors, and provides ease of access for patients. There is nothing unethical in a physical therapist choosing to work for a surgeon in whom he has confidence and for whom he has professional respect. The deliberate formation of this sort of clinical team enriches the practice of both specialties and ultimately benefits the patient.

As a licensed physical therapist, professionalism demands that I adhere to standards and ethical principles which transcend practice setting. The implication that clinicians providing care in physician owned practices are somehow unethical or offering substandard care is based on unfair and unsubstantiated assumptions. The CPTA has a responsibility to fairly represent all of its members, employed in all practice settings, without bias.

The APTA vision statement for 2020 mandates the clinical doctorate for entry-level clinicians. One of the purposes of this mandate is to encourage professional autonomy for physical therapists. That autonomy should be extended to therapists that choose to work in physician owned practices as well as those in private practices and other settings. I respectfully disagree with what the CPTA is trying to accomplish with this initiative because of the limitations it will place on clinicians and their choice of employment setting. There are many qualified physical therapists in the state of Connecticut that work for physician owned practices that will be unfairly targeted by this legislation. The CPTA should be protecting the interests of these clinicians as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.